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October 2017

# M Street High School From The Record

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# THE R

ESTABLISHED, 1893.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,



MR. W. L. HOUSTON,  
Of this City, who is widely discussed as the next G. M. of G. U. O. of O. F.

## M STREET HIGH SCHOOL

Subjoined will be found the Action of the  
Board of Education.

Relative to the M Street High School Con-  
troversy. Obligation Goes With Equal-  
ity.

After many delays and several post-  
ponements, the Board of Education last  
night, in special meeting, passed upon  
the charges against Mrs. Anna J.  
Cooper, principal of the M Street Col-  
ored High School. The board retained  
Mrs. Cooper in her position as prin-  
cipal, but suspended her salary for the

That the board declares that the  
public school system as at present or-  
ganized and administered offers to  
every child of school age an equal  
opportunity to acquire a common  
school education in a favorable envi-  
ronment and under the best teachers  
available; that the advanced courses  
of the high, manual training, and nor-  
mal schools are open to all who are  
able to attain such reasonable stand-  
ards of scholarship as are everywhere  
recognized as essential to advance-  
ment toward the higher learning; that  
the same text-books are prescribed,  
and, in the graded schools, furnished  
without cost to all alike; that no dis-  
crimination has ever been made by  
the board in the cost and complete-  
ness of new school buildings; that no

on the case was lengthy, and consisted  
of four closely written typewritten  
pages. The trouble at the school was  
dealt with in every detail. Like  
report on the late Swartzell case,  
document was aimed to satisfy  
parties interested in the case, and  
is the hope of the board that there  
will be harmony at the school in the  
future.

The principal was arraigned for adopt-  
ing a textbook not prescribed; for dis-  
obeying orders of the directors of high  
schools in not sending four disquali-  
fied pupils back to the eighth grade  
from the first-year class, and for keep-  
ing pupils in the school by the adop-  
tion of so-called "sympathetic" meth-  
ods. While it was proven that cer-  
tain pupils had been drinking intoxi-  
cants in the school, the report said  
that the case was a single instance  
and that there was no ground for  
general charge that there had been  
drinking among the pupils.

### [LACK OF LOYALTY ALLEGED.]

The report continued further  
say: "We find that the principal has  
not maintained that proper relation,  
that strict loyalty to the  
director of high schools that should  
prevail in a well-organized system."

The board spoke highly of Mrs.  
Cooper's attainments and her good  
character, and concluded with the  
following:

In view of all the facts and circum-  
stances and the very strong desire of a  
large proportion of the colored people  
of this District to have Mrs. Cooper



the school under her administration.

Her retention was ascribed to her high intellectual attainments, her excellent reputation, and because she received the support of a large proportion of the colored race in the District. No changes were made in the curriculum of the school. All members of the board were present.

After hearing the report of the committee of the whole board on the case, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

That all courses of study in the public schools of the District, from the kindergarten to the normal schools, adopted and enforced by the present board of education since its organization, are designed to be, and are, identical for the white and the colored schools.

That it has been the steadfast policy of the board to regard the public school system as a unit for all administrative purposes, and accordingly its official acts have applied without favor or preference to the entire body of teachers and to all the pupils under instruction, without regard to color, nationality, or social position.

has been able to influence legislation, teachers doing like work have received like pay, while pupils performing kindred tasks have shared kindred honors.

#### OBLIGATION WITH EQUALITY.

That the board believes that this equality of participation in the advantages of free education should carry with it an equality of obligation, and that no individual or class of pupils should desire or expect the rewards of scholarly endeavor without fully measuring up to the standards of attainment set for all.

That the board also believes that it is a false and hurtful manifestation of sympathy toward any class of pupils for a teacher or school officer to lower the standards in conformity to which alone pupils can be rightly advanced, and that a regard for the highest interests of the student, whatever his station in life, should withhold from him any promotion or honor which has not been squarely earned.

No mention of Mrs. Cooper's name was made in the resolution adopted, the board dealing only with its policy in regard to the schools. The report

COOPER.

Principal M St. High School.

tained as principal, we have her retention, with the exception, however, that the student work, the grading of students, the recommendations of students for graduation be conducted strictly in accordance with the policy of the board of education and the conclusions of this report, and that in her official conduct she shall recognize the authority of her superior officer, the director of high schools, and conform her official conduct in all respects to the rules of the board.

In conclusion, the committee recommends that a strict observance be made of the work in the M St. H. School, with a view of maintaining the standards and works herein set forth; preventing any impropriety on the part of teachers from creating disaffection, securing a strict observance of that discipline, official recognition of superior officers, and conduct essential to the best and highest educational results in this important school, and that stated reports of these observations be made to the board for proper action thereon.

#### PROF. W. H. COUNCILL.

W. H. Councilll was born in Fayetteville, N. C., in 1848, and was carried to Alabama by the traders in 1857, through the famous Richmond Slave Pen. In Alabama he worked in the fields with the other slaves. He is a self-made man, having had only few school advantages. He attended one of the first schools opened by kind Northern friends at Stevenson, Ala., in 1865. Here he remained about three years, and this is the basis of his education. He has accumulated quite an excellent library, and the best books of the best masters are his constant companions, as well as a large supply of the best current literature. By private instruction and most incessant study, he gained a knowledge of some of the languages, higher mathematics, and sciences. He was Chief Enrolling Clerk of the A.



PROF. W. H. COUNCILL.

Normal, Ala.